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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/531,862	03/21/2000	Kerry Veenstra	9818-026-999	6687

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EXAMINER

WILLIAMS, LAWRENCE B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2634

DATE MAILED: 03/19/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/531,862

Applicant(s)

VEENSTRA ET AL.

Examiner

Lawrence B Williams

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 5-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-4, 14 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response To Amendments

1. The indicated allowability of claims 1-14 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s), US Patent 6, 252, 219 B1). Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 5-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Sung et al. (US Patent 6, 252, 219 B1)

(1) With regard to claim 1, Sung et al. discloses in Figs, 2A and 4, a signal routing apparatus (30) comprising; a register bank (48) to store a set of data signals (400); a delay locked loop (16) to generate a set of phase displaced clock signals (col. 7, lines 45-61); a phase controlled read circuit (42) to sequentially route the set of data signals from the register bank in response to the phase displaced clock signals; and a Low Voltage Differential Signaling buffer (44) connected to the phase controlled read circuit to transmit the data signals in a Low Voltage Differential Signaling mode (col. 9, lines 3-66).

(2) With regard to claim 5, Sung et al. also discloses in Fig. 5, the signal routing apparatus in combination with a programmable logic device ((10), col. 10, lines 21-30).

(3) With regard to claim 6, Sung et al. also discloses in Fig. 5, wherein the programmable logic device (10) is connected to a system bus ((505), col. 10, lines 21-30).

(4) With regard to claim 7, Sung et al. also discloses in Fig. 5, wherein memory (502) is connected to the system bus (col. 10, lines 21-30).

(5) With regard to claim 8, Sung et al. also discloses in Fig. 5, wherein a processor (501) is connected to the system bus (col. 10, lines 21-30).

(6) With regard to claim 9, Sung et al. also discloses in Fig. 5, wherein input/output circuitry (503) is connected to the system bus (col. 10, lines 21-30).

(7) With regard to claim 10, Sung et al. also discloses in Fig. 5, wherein a peripheral device (504) is connected to the system bus (col. 10, lines 21-30).

(8) With regard to claim 11, claim 11 inherits the limitations of claim 1, since claim 11 merely discloses the method of the apparatus disclosed in claim 1.

(9) With regard to claim 12, claim 12 inherits the limitations of claim 11. Furthermore, Sung et al. also discloses in Fig. 4, wherein the storing step includes the step of storing the set of data signals in a register bank (48).

(10) With regard to claim 13, Sung et al. also discloses in Fig. 4, wherein the generating step includes the step of generating the set of displaced clock signals with a delay locked loop (col. 7, lines 45-61).

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Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 2-4 and 14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion


5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lawrence B Williams whose telephone number is 703-305-6969. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:00-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Chin can be reached on 703-305-4714. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Lawrence B. Williams

lbw
March 10, 2004


STEPHEN CHIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600